

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 2, and 5 are amended. Claim 4 is canceled. The revision to claims 1, 2, and 5 are supported, for example, in the original claims. Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are pending, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5 stand rejected being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,059,173 (Sacco). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of determining a composition of an infusion line. Components for forming the infusion line are classified into unit groups, which are defined based on properties of that unit, i.e. the role or function of that unit in the infusion line. The units are configured to be of specified shapes and sizes so that a single size connector is capable of connecting the units together. At least one kind of the units from each of the unit groups are selected based on the determined combination of unit groups. By this arrangement, the composition of an infusion line easily can be adapted to various demands and requirements, while simplifying the production system and reducing costs. *See, e.g.*, page 8, lines 21-27 of the specification. Moreover, by defining the classification of the units based on their function in the infusion line, the components can be selected systematically and the proper infusion line can be determined with relative ease.

Sacco simply relates to a method of administering multiple intravenous fluids to a patient. Sacco does not disclose or suggest at least the above features. Indeed, Sacco does not teach or suggest a method of determining the composition of an infusion line. Therefore, Sacco cannot teach or suggest a method of determining a composition of an infusion line that requires a classification of units based on their functions in the infusion line.

Applicant therefore submits that claim 1 is allowable over Sacco. Claims 2, 3, and 5 depend from claim 1 and are believed allowable for the same reasons.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,552,556 (Urquhart). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Urquhart also does not disclose or suggest at least the above features. Like Sacco, Urquhart simply relates to a method of administering multiple intravenous fluids to a patient. However, Urquhart does not teach or suggest a method of determining the composition of an

infusion line. Accordingly, like Sacco, Urquhart cannot teach or suggest a method of determining a composition of an infusion line that requires a classification of units based on their function in the infusion line.

Applicant therefore submits that claim 1 is allowable over Urquhart. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and are believed allowable for the same reasons.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

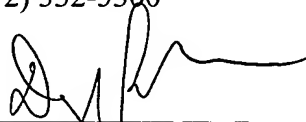
Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Sacco in view of Urquhart. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 6 and 7 depend from allowable claim 1. Urquhart does not remedy the deficiencies of Sacco as noted above. Accordingly, Applicant therefore submits that claims 6 and 7 are also allowable over the cited reference. Applicant does not concede the correctness of this rejection.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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